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Client/Matter: 041535-0306100

## REMARKS

Claims 12 and 15 are pending. By this Amendment, the title and the specification are amended; claims 1-11, 13, and 16-23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 12 and 15 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The undersigned respectfully notes that the filing date of U.S. Application 09/777,698 was corrected in the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed April 8, 2005. The specification has been amended to update the status of U.S. Application 09/777,698 as U.S. Patent 6,692,607, and to correct the filing date of Japanese Application 9-80871.

The title was objected to. The title has been amended to obviate the objection.

Claims 1, 2, 13, 17-20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U S.C. §101 over claims 17-20 and 23 of U.S. Application 10/747,056. Claims 1, 2, 13, 17-20 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent 4,767,486) in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 4,917,851). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-11, 13 and 16-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer Claim 14 was canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed September 25, 2003. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 15 depends from claim 12.

Claim 12 recites a method for manufacturing a molded multilayer article . The method comprises extruding a plurality of monolayers of molten polymers by forcing the molten polymers into a multiple T die combined with a plurality of T dies so that the molten polymers are extruded respectively through the T dies; forcing an intermediate molten multilayer by superposing and laminating the monolayers extruded through the T dies outside the multiple T die while the polymers are in a molten state or a semi-molten state; feeding the intermediate molten monolayer to a compression mold having a bottom half mold and a top half mold by advancing the multiple T die into a space between the bottom half mold and the top half mold; cutting the intermediate molten multilayer to a predetermined length; and molding the intermediate molten multilayer in the compression mold into a multilayer article of a desired shape, wherein the intermediate molten multilayer is cut at a position below the die slot openings of the T dies of the multiple T die with respect to a direction in which the monolayers are extruded.

As conceded by the Examiner, Nakajima et al. fail to disclose, teach or suggest a multiple T-die formed by an assembly of T-dies. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Nakajima et al. also fail to disclose, teach or suggest that the intermediate molten multilayer is cut at a position below the die slot openings of the T dies of the multiple T die with respect to a direction in which the monolayers are extruded.

Nakajima et al. disclose a method of manufacturing an electrostatic capacitance type information signal recording disc. Nakajima discloses using T-die type extruders 11a, 11b and 11c to form conductive plastic sheets 16a, 16b and 17. (See col. 3, lines 54-67). Nakajima et al. further disclose that the sheets 16a, 16b and 17 are then laminated together to form a laminated sheet 19 using a laminator 18 having heated rollers. (See col. 4, lines 29-40). However, Nakajima merely teaches that the laminated sheet 19 is cut using a cutter 21 into laminated plates 22, which are then stacked. (See col. 4, lines 40-42).

Yamada fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nakajima. Yamada discloses a multi-layer resin material manufacturing apparatus used in connection with the formation of a multi-layer resin material. Yamada merely discloses that the multi-layer resin discharged from the T-die 5 has both lateral edges thereof cut by the cutter 6 so that the sheet has a predetermined width. (See col. 4, lines 32-35). However, Yamada is silent about, *inter alia*, an intermediate molten multilayer being cut at a position below the die slot openings of the T dies of the multiple T die with respect to a direction in which the monolayers are extruded. Therefore, even assuming it would have been obvious to combine Nakajima et al. and Yamada et al., which Applicants do not concede, such a combination would not result in the invention of claim 12.

Claim 15 recites additional features of the invention and is allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 12 and for the additional features recited therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection over Nakajima et al. in view of Yamada et al. are respectfully requested.

The objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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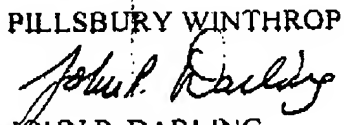

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